



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder represents a broad group of disorders that vary widely from mild to severe, and is characterized by difficulty with social interaction, communication, severely limited interests and repetitive behaviors; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) studied four New Jersey counties and in 2007 reported an autism prevalence rate of 1 in 94; and

WHEREAS, the lifelong nature of autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities requires a variety of types of assistance at different points in an individual's life; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 the New Jersey Autism Registry was created and has identified more than 6,000 children with an autism spectrum disorder and will provide information on the characteristics of and the services needed by children with autism for future policy and planning; and

WHEREAS, a variety of public and private organizations and agencies strive to provide quality care, support or services to children and adults with autism spectrum disorder to enable them to live as independently as possible and to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, each organization has a role in identifying, assessing or supporting people with autism spectrum disorder and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism has provided funding to enhance clinical services in New Jersey and to conduct biomedical research on autism; and

WHEREAS, in August 2010, an Office of Autism was established within the Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities, creating a centralized location to address autism-related issues; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Autism organized an Interdepartmental Work Group, which includes the New Jersey Departments of Human Services; Health and Senior Services; Children and Families; Community Affairs; Education; and Labor and Work Force Development to enhance communication and coordination among state agencies charged with providing services to persons with autism spectrum disorder;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim

APRIL 2011

AS

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this first day of April in the year two thousand eleven, the two hundred thirty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States.



Lt. GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR